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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,479	12/17/2003	Jean-Francois Fauh	FR920030017US1	1478
24241	7590	06/11/2007		
IBM MICROELECTRONICS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW 1000 RIVER STREET 972 E ESSEX JUNCTION, VT 05452			EXAMINER DINH, TUAN T	
			ART UNIT 2841	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/707,479

Applicant(s)

FAUH ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan T. Dinh

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-9, 11 and 17-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 10, 12-16 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 10, and 12-16, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris (U.S. Patent 5,708,400).

As to claim 1, Morris discloses a printed circuit board (2) as shown in figure 1, comprising:

a first power plane layer (3) including first and second segments (the segments formed on left and right sides of the power plane 3) and a third segment (a segment formed on a middle of the power plane 3) for connecting said first and second segments;

wherein electronic components ((11, 12) and (13, 14)) are physically coupled only to said first and second segments (noted: the component 11, 12 coupled to the first segment (on the left side) and the component 13, 14 coupled to the second segment (on the right side));

and a first pair of conductive vias (7) each coupled to different points on said third segment, wherein a current transferred from said first segment to said second segment

is determined by a potential difference and a resistance between said first pair of conductive vias (7).

As to claim 2, Morris discloses said first segment includes a plurality of conductive vias (7, below a circuit (13, 14).

As to claim 10, Morris discloses said first segment comprises a rectangular geometry

As to claim 12, Morris said first segment is electrically characterized.

As to claims 13-15, Morris discloses said third segment **being capable of** (the term capable of being is defined as an intended use or adapted to) carrying current greater than about 20 amperes.

As to claim 16, Morris discloses the PCB capable of being have a lookup table is utilized for current derivation correlated with the difference in potential measured at said first pair of conductive vias.

As to claim 21, Morris discloses of said vias comprising an end portion terminated on the third portion and another end portion terminated on a pad (the via 7 having portions one on the third segment and another on the pad located on a surface of the board).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 10, 12-13, 15-16, and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues:

Morris does not anticipated applicant's claim 1, as amended, for example, Morris is silent on only first and second segments of the power plane (3) being physically coupled to an electronic component.

Examiner disagrees because as claim in claim 1, the applicant (amended claim of claim 1) recites "electronic components (not only one electronic omponent in the remark) are physically coupled only to said first and second segments, so in figure 1 of Morris shows the component (11, 12) is physically coupled to the first segment (on the left side) and the component (13, 14) is physically coupled to the second segment (on the right side). Thus, the Morris meets the claim.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2841

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Reichard Dean can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tuan Dinh
June 06, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan T. Dinh', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

TUAN T. DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER